

Districting Commission
Meeting Minutes 7/24/12

Members in Attendance:

Nora Cofresi
Arreda Cotten
Janet Gianopoulos
Chris Knasiak
Thomas J. Murphy
Jason Nordlund
Rev. Steve Ruelke

Staff:

Corporation Counsel Michelle Kelson
GIS Analyst Lawrence Fleischer
Administrative Assistant Ann Kuzmik

Chairperson Chris Knasiak called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION 1:

A motion to approve amendments to the minutes of the 6/12/12 meeting as distributed at the 7/24/12 meeting was made by Janet Gianopoulos and seconded by Jason Nordlund. The motion was approved unanimously.

MOTION 2:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 7/10/12 meeting was made by Janet Gianopoulos and seconded by Arreda Cotten. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Commission then reviewed maps including Draft 1 of the proposed City of Newburgh Wards, one showing the total population of Draft 1 by census block and maps showing the breakdown by ethnicity.

Discussion followed about the Voting Rights Act and the importance of maintaining cohesive and neighborhoods and partitioning wards so homogeneous communities are not divided and voting strength diluted.

MOTION 3:

Janet Gianopoulos made a motion, seconded by Nora Cofresi that the Commission request GIS make changes to the draft based on the 2010 population and ethnicity map. The motion passed unanimously

MOTION 4:

Janet Gianopoulos moved, seconded by Jason Nordlund that GIS prepare an overlay to go over the Draft 1 map showing the population of Hispanic, non-Hispanic, African American and “other”. The motion passed unanimously

MOTION 5:

Jason Nordlund moved and Steve Ruelke seconded that the Commission meet two times a month. The motion passed unanimously

AGENDA ITEMS:

The group also discussed the legal case studies distributed by Michelle Kelson earlier.

Next Steps:

- Michelle Kelson is to determine Gerry Benjamin’s availability to assist the Commission
- Schedule meetings for September, October & November
- Schedule dates for presentation to Council and public hearings

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.